

Erie County Ethics Board

February 2017 Minutes

February 6, 2017 8 a.m. 16th Floor Rath Building

MEMBERS:

___ Steven Schwartz, Chair
___ Rebecca Town, Secretary
___ Chris Trapp, Vice-Chair
___ Miles Gresham
___ Leslie Ortiz-Fogg, Ex-Officio

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

STAFF:

___ Vianne Uthman, Administrative Staff

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ross Kostecky and George McNerney (Clerk's Office)

1. Meeting call to order at 8:24 a.m.
2. Election of Officers for 2017 nominated and approved unanimously:
 - i. Chair: Steven Schwartz
 - ii. Vice-Chair: Chris Trapp
 - iii. Secretary: Rebecca Town
3. Reviewed and approved December 2016 Meeting Minutes* (Trapp/ Town):
4. Website Updates / Email Updates (Uthman/Town /Schwartz):
 - i. Request for opinions/actions:
 - i. 12/6/16 M.Whyte: solicited an opinion on appearing in marketing plan for Medaille College. The Ethics Board informed Ms. Whyte that she should refrain from appearing in commercials until she is no longer currently enrolled at Medaille.
 - ii. Request granted to post Legislative website of Ethics Board meeting recordings. Vianne will followup.
 - iii. 12/27/16: request from T.Grieves to fire C. Paladino falls outside the jurisdiction of the Ethics Board.
 - iv. 1/27 & 31/16 Separate requests from Moore and Hanson about conduct of Town of Boston Board. Chair referred them to Town Ethics Board by email and by phone.
 - ii. FOIL Requests: NONE
 - iii. Other communications:
 - i. 1/5/17: Legislator P. Savage informed Board of change of outside employment
 - ii. Media reports of December, 2016 Board Meeting sent to Board members.
5. Old Business:
 - i. Morton vs. County of Erie, et al: 12/27/16 Update on Federal suit regarding fine imposed for violation of financial disclosure laws. As of 1/31/17 in front of judge.
 - ii. 12/12/16 Response sent to request by Mills for opinion and investigation of Poloncarz phone message. No response to date.
 - iii. Appointment to Board:

- a. Schwartz recommended for reappointment by County Executive on 12/13/16 and confirmed by Legislature on 12/16/16 for term ending 12/31/21
 - b. Resume of J. Czechowski forwarded to County Executive for consideration of filling vacant position
 - c. 1/5/17 County Executive recommendation to Legislature to fill vacant position rejected
 - iv. Review of 2015 Financial Disclosure Form for changes for 2016 deferred to March meeting.
5. New Business (Schwartz):
- i. Meeting with DA Flynn. Schwartz, Town and Ortiz-Fogg met with DA Flynn on 2/1 as a general introduction and to review financial disclosure procedures.
 - ii. Review of schedule for 2017 for Financial Disclosures deferred to March meeting.
 - iii. Schedule of meeting for approved for 2017:
 - i. March 6, 2017
 - ii. April 3, 2017
 - iii. May 1, 2017
 - iv. June 5, 2017
 - v. July 10, 2017
 - vi. August 7, 2017 (if needed)
 - vii. September 11, 2017
 - viii. October 2, 2017
 - ix. November 6, 2017
 - x. December 4, 2017 (if needed)
6. Motion to adjourn moved and approved.
7. Next meeting scheduled for Monday March 6, 2017 at 8 a.m.